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NEWSLETTER

102-1369

2 July 1992

Washington, DC

WHAT ARE NEIGHBORS FOR? - Legislation which I introduced to let eight Latin American and Caribbean countries reduce their debts to the United States -- if the money saved is spent on projects to improve and preserve the environment, is gaining steam with the recent support of the Administration.

H R 4059, would allow eight Western Hemisphere Countries (Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Panama, and Peru), to buy, at rates lower than the face value of the loans, up to 40 percent of the amount they owe the U S Agriculture Department's Commodity Credit Corporation.

In the case of Mexico alone, this bill would expand Mexico's ability to finance its share of cleanup projects needed along the U S-Mexico border, benefitting people living on both sides of the Rio Grande. It's a win/win/win situation. The debtor nations receive financial advantages, the United States would benefit through an anticipated acceleration of the repayment rate, and everyone else would ultimately benefit because of the environmental improvements the plan could spur.

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DUCK STAMPS & CONSERVATION - As a sportsman and member of Congress, conservation has been and continues to be one of my top priorities. This can be traced back to my scouting years when we were taught to leave a camp site in better condition than we found it. Being outdoors and seeing all that nature has to offer is enough to turn even the non-believers into conservationists, and preserving our refuges is not only good for our ecosystem, but it provides recreation for people, and a home for wildlife.

One of the greatest joys for children and adults alike is observing wildlife in its natural habitat. But many don't have the opportunity to experience this firsthand and often search for a way to contribute to preservation and conservation in their own way and lend a helping hand.

The 1992-93 Federal Duck Stamp is about to make its debut for sale, June 30 and July 1, during special celebrations in Washington, DC, and in Jackson, New Jersey. All waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older,

are required to carry a current, signed Federal Duck Stamp. But the stamp also allows non-hunters to make a contribution to conservation efforts.

On June 30, here in the nation's capital, stamp designer Joe Hautman will join officials from the Interior Department, the U S Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Smithsonian Institution to celebrate the sale of the first 1992-93 Duck Stamp in a ceremony open to the public. The stamp can be purchased at most U S Post Offices, some sporting goods outlets, as well as many national wildlife refuges across the country.

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ANTI-HUNGER EFFORTS - It was with great pride and humility that your Congressman was honored by a leading anti-hunger advocacy organization as "one of Congress' leading advocates of nutrition programs for low-income Americans." The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), a Washington-based nonprofit organization that focuses on anti-hunger issues, has also recently launched a campaign to end childhood hunger in the United States.

In my role as Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, it has always been my goal to find common ground on issues that we face. So without the bipartisan efforts of my colleagues on the Committee and in the House and Senate, as well as the efforts of private organizations, it would not have been possible to achieve passage of measures which ensure Americans of a stable and affordable food supply, protect low-income Americans from hunger, created the TEFAP commodity distribution program, and strengthened the food stamp program to reduce abuse.

By assisting with the passage of the Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act, in honor of my good friend and former Texas colleague, we ensured that government responds to basic human needs, and as I stated, our goal should be from Matthew -- until all are fed and we have twelve baskets left over we would not have finished our task.

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VISITORS FROM HOME - Arnoldo Cantu of San Juan; Dr and Mrs Pat Riley, Leighann Riley, Darlene Aquino, Baldo and Nohemi Vela, and Cathy Salinas of McAllen; Rick and Nora Gardner of Mission; Margarita Nino, and Rachel and Pablo Coronado of Edinburg; Deyaun Boudreaux of Aransas Pass; Melissa Gordon of Weslaco; and Twister Marquiss of Pleasanton.

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